The Story of the Man and His Sixty Years of Worship

Islamic Stories - Volume 12

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Chapter 1: A Devout Worshipper Among the Bani Israel

The Sixty Years of Devotion:

According to Hazrat Abu Dharr, the Messenger of Allah ﷺ narrated a story about a devout worshipper from the Bani Israel who had spent sixty years engaged in worship in his monastery. After a rainfall, the land surrounding the monastery became lush and green.

The Moment of Reflection:

The worshipper looked out from his monastery and reflected on his spiritual state. He said to himself:

Worshipper:

"If I descend and perform remembrance, my good deeds will increase."

Consequently, he descended from the monastery with one or two pieces of bread in his possession.

The Encounter and Its Consequences:

While on the ground, a woman approached him. They conversed until the worshipper committed an adultery with her. After this event, he experienced a fainting episode and went to bathe in a nearby pond. At that moment, a beggar arrived. The worshipper gestured towards the beggar, saying:

Worshipper:

"Take both pieces of bread."

Shortly thereafter, the worshipper passed away.

The Weight of Deeds: Good and Sinful

Despite the worshipper’s sixty years of devotion, his sin of adultery outweighed his good deeds. However, when the one or two pieces of bread were added to his record of good deeds, his good deeds became heavy enough to grant him forgiveness.